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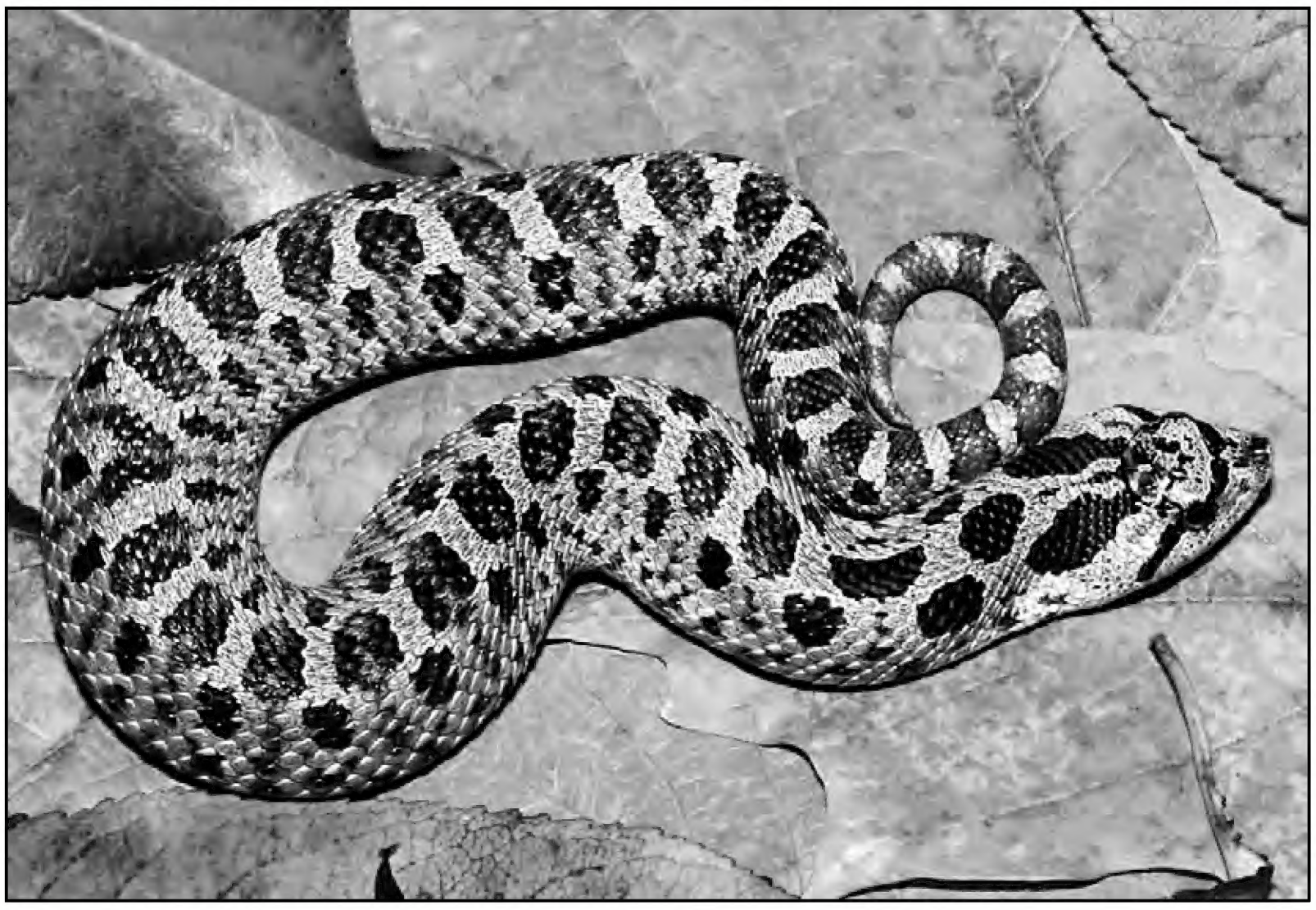

BULLETIN OF THE CHICAGO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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Size and Longevity Records for the Southern Hognose Snake, *Heterodon simus*

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A maximum size for the southern hognose snake (*Heterodon simus*) was reported as 625 mm total length (549 mm snout-vent length) for a female, wild-caught as an adult and maintained in captivity for 6 years 161 days (Beane and Thorp, 2004). Conant and Collins (1998) reported a maximum of 610 mm TL for a wild specimen, and Palmer and Braswell (1995) reported a maximum TL of 578 mm for the species in North Carolina. On 13 October 1996 we collected a hatchling female *H. simus* at ca. 10.1 km W of Wagram, Scotland County, North Carolina. The specimen was maintained in captivity until her death on 13 October 2007. She was fed anurans during the first few weeks of captivity, but soon began feeding on laboratory mice (*Mus musculus*) and was fed exclusively mice for the duration of her life. Upon her death, the snake measured 743 mm TL (643 mm SVL). The specimen is deposited in the research collections of the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences (NCSM 73813).

Beane and Thorp (2004) speculated that *H. simus* might potentially reach larger sizes on an artificial diet of mice than on their natural diet of predominantly anurans, and/or that captivity could afford a longer life span (and therefore potential for greater size) than this species would normally attain in the wild. However, we have also maintained several other captives on all-mouse diets, for equal or longer time periods, that did not grow exceptionally large.

To our knowledge, the greatest published longevity record for *H. simus* is 8 years 9 months (Slavens and Slavens, 1999). That specimen, wild-caught as a juvenile female in Scotland County, North Carolina, was the same individual reported by Snider and Bowler (1992) as still living after 3 years 28 days; she eventually lived for 9 years 67 days. The specimen of record size reported here (NCSM 73813) was maintained in captivity for 11 years to the day. We have maintained five other captive *H. simus* that have surpassed that life span. The oldest of these, a male, was wild-caught as an adult in Scotland County, North Carolina, on 8 October 1995 and died on 19 November 2007. This captive life span of 12 years 42 days apparently represents the current longevity record for the species. Four additional captive specimens have surpassed 11 years as of this writing.

We thank the North Carolina Herpetological Society, the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, Three Lakes Nature Center and Aquarium, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and many individuals for supporting our ongoing work with this species.

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Inventory of Amphibians along Wolf Run, Erie, Pennsylvania

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Wolf Run is located in western Millcreek Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania, in the Lake Erie Plain. It is a small, shallow stream that drains directly into Lake Erie. Tree species at the site included beech, oak, tulip tree, maple and hemlock. The understory contained several fern species (marginal wood fern, southern beach fern, northern maidenhair fern and bead fern), scouring rush, Indian pipe, foam flower, miterwort, and trillium. The wooded ravine containing the run provided ideal habitat for amphibians, and the stream was used by steelhead trout and chinook salmon during some years (pers. obs.). The surrounding area is residential, with numerous well-separated homes. Habitats searched during the inventory included the edge of the stream, seepage areas, and logs and rocks on the slope of the ravine. Due to the steepness of the western side of the ravine, most searching was done on the eastern side. Approximately 63 acres were searched from just north of Route 5, north to Wolf Road. Eighteen visits were made as follows: three between 18 July and 16 September 1995; four between 30 July and 16 October 1996; seven between 26 April and 23 August 1997; four between 7 May and 16 October 1998. Most visits lasted approximately 2 hours.

Table 1. Number of individuals found per species, per season at the Wolf Run site. The number of visits to the site in each season is shown in parentheses under the year.

Species	1995 (3)	1996 (4)	1997 (7)	1998 (4)	Total
Plethodon cinereus	3	20	29	19	71
P. glutinosus	1	3	14	4	22
Desmognathus fuscus	0	0	0	1	1
D. ochrophaeus	0	0	5	9	14
Bufo americanus	0	1	0	2	3
Rana clamitans	0	0	0	2	2
Total	4	24	48	37	113

The purpose of this note is to provide a record of the amphibian species that were present at the site prior to residential development, which altered much of the forested slope and may have altered some of the seepage areas as well.

Six species of amphibians were found to occur at the site (Table 1). The most abundant species was the northern redback salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) (n = 71), which was found primarily beneath decaying logs on the upper portion of the slope, especially where there were hemlocks present. The rarest salamander species was the northern dusky salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*), represented by a single female found brooding eggs on 16 October 1998. The green frog, *Rana clamitans*, was the least observed anuran, but was probably more common than the present report suggests. The most productive season (based on number of species observed) was 1998, with all six species being found that year (Table 1).

On 28 July 1998, development was noted, with trees being cleared and the ground leveled for houses. Additional development was observed on my last visit to the site (16 October 1998). Since that time a residential neighborhood has been built on much of the eastern portion of the site. While Wolf Run did not have a very diverse herpetofauna, it was one of only a few sites in western Millcreek Township with good numbers of northern slimy salamanders, *Plethodon glutinosus*, present. However, this may have been due to the small number of salamander species with which it had to compete. This site also contained both leadback and erythristic individuals of *P. cinereus*. While all species found at the site are fairly hardy, a future survey of the site may provide information on any changes in both species richness and abundance that may have occurred due to habitat alteration.

Thanks to Mark Lethaby for reviewing the manuscript.

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Note on Reproduction of the Cape Dwarf Gecko, *Lygodactylus capensis* (Squamata: Gekkonidae), from Southern Africa

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Abstract

Histological examination was conducted on the reproductive organs of 31 Cape dwarf geckos, *Lygodactylus capensis*, from southern Africa. Females and males were reproductively active in spring and summer. The smallest reproductively active females measured 32 mm snout-vent length (SVL). Clutch sizes consisted of 2 eggs. The smallest reproductively active males measured 30 mm SVL. Comparisons are made with the reproductive cycles of other species of *Lygodactylus.*

The Cape dwarf gecko, *Lygodactylus capensis*, frequents well-wooded areas, savannahs and subtropical thickets from the eastern Cape of the Republic of South Africa to East Africa (Branch, 1998). There are numerous reports that *L. capensis* produces clutches of two eggs: Loveridge (1947); FitzSimons (1943); Simbotwe (1983); Auerbach (1987); Branch and Haagner (1993); Douglas (1993); Branch (1998); Branch et al. (2005). The purpose of this note is to report information on the reproductive cycle of *L. capensis* from a histological examination of gonadal material. The first histological information on the testicular cycle of *L. capensis* is presented.

Seventeen males (mean snout-vent length [SVL] = 32.2 mm ± 1.7 SD, range: 30–36 mm); fourteen females (mean SVL = 32.3 mm ± 1.7 SD, range: 30–36 mm) and five neonates (mean SVL = 19.4 mm ± 2.4 SD, range: 16–22 mm) were examined from the herpetology collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, LACM, Los Angeles County, California; Botswana, (n = 4) Kgalagadi Province, 20 km N Tsabong (24°11′S, 21°55′E) LACM 80518, Northwest Province, 100 km NE Maun (23°26′E, 19°58′S) LACM 137020, 137024, 137025; Zambia (n = 12) Eastern Province, Mkwela (14°18′S, 33°95′E) LACM 136163-136168, 136172-136174, 136178, 136179, 136181; Republic of South Africa (n = 20) KwaZulu-Natal Province, 23 km NE Port Shepstone (30°75′S, 30°45′E) LACM 14029; Northern Cape Province, 29 km S., 40 km E Rietfontein (27°00′S, 20°27′E) LACM 80494-80498, 80500, 80501, 80503-80505, 80508, 80509, 80511-80515; Upington (28°27′S, 21°14′E) LACM 80516; 7 km SE Aansluit (26°45′S, 22°32′E) LACM 80517. Lizards were collected in 1925, 1969, 1970, 1982 and 1985.

The left testis and epididymis were removed from males and the left ovary was removed from females for histological examination. Enlarged follicles (> 3 mm length) were counted but not examined histologically. Tissues were embedded in paraffin, sectioned at 5 μm and stained with Harris hematoxylin followed by eosin counterstain. Testes slides were examined to determine the stage of the spermatogenic cycle and epididymides were examined for the presence of sperm. Ovary slides were examined for the presence of yolk deposition or corpora lutea. Mean body sizes of males versus females were compared by an unpaired t-test using Instat (vers. 3.0b, Graphpad Software, San Diego, CA).

An unpaired t-test indicated no significant difference between mean sizes of males and females (t = 0.128, df = 31, P = 0.90). All male *L. capensis* were undergoing spermiogenesis. These included July (n = 1), August (1), September (2), October (6), December (2), February (5). Lumina of the seminiferous tubules were lined by spermatozoa and clusters of metamorphosing spermatids. Epididymides contained sperm. The smallest reproductively active males measured 30 mm SVL and were from July (LACM 80514), August (LACM 80515) and December (LACM 80497).

Stages in the ovarian cycle of *L. capensis* are in Table 1. The smallest reproductively active females (early yolk deposition or enlarged follicles > 3 mm length) measured 32 mm and were from September (LACM 137020), October (LACM 136168, 136179), December (LACM 80494). Mean clutch size for seven *L. capensis* females was 2.0.

There are reports of clutches consisting of two eggs for other species of *Lygodactylus* from southern Africa in a field guide (Branch, 1988): *L. bernardi*, *L. bradfieldi*, *L. methueni*, *L. nigropunctatus*, *L. ocellatus*. Likewise, two-egg clutches are reported for *L. picturatus* and *L. somalicus* in Kenya (Greer, 1967), *L. klugei* in Brazil (Vitt, 1986), *L. chobiensis* in Zimbabwe (Haagner, 1992), *L. angularis* in Zambia (Haagner, 1999) and *L. mirabilis* and *L. verticillatus* in Madagascar (Vences et al., 2002; Vences et al., 2004). Two-egg clutches appear to be the rule for lizards of the genus *Lygodactylus* (Loveridge, 1947); different subfamilies of geckos appear to exhibit invariable clutch sizes (Vitt, 1986). Communal egg-laying occurs in *L. capensis* (Simbotwe, 1983; Branch and Haagner, 1993) and in other species of *Lygodactylus* (Love-

Table 1. Monthly changes in the ovarian cycle of 14 *Lygodactylus capensis* females from southern Africa.

Month	*n*	No yolk deposition	Early yolk deposition	Enlarged follicles > 3 mm length
September	1	0	1	0
October	6	2	2	2
December	3	0	1	2
February	4	0	0	3

ridge, 1947; Branch, 1998; Haagner, 1999).

One each month presumably neonate *L. capensis* was collected in December, January–March and June.

The presence of males undergoing spermiogenesis in late winter, spring and summer and reproductively active females in spring and summer suggests *L. capensis* has a prolonged reproductive cycle. Based on his observation of enlarged testes and large, coiled epididymides throughout the year, Simbotwe (1983) reported spermiogenesis in *L. capensis* to be continuous. The smallest reproductive *L. capensis* female measured 25.8 mm SVL; the smallest mature male measured 27.5 mm SVL; 98% of gravid females contained a clutch of 2 eggs (Simbotwe 1983). There was no evidence in my study (oviductal eggs and concomitant yolk deposition in the same female) to suggest *L. capensis* females produced multiple egg clutches in the same year; however, it might be possible considering the reproductive period encompassed spring and summer. Simbotwe (1983) recaptured twice gravid females of the congener *Lygodactylus chobiensis*. Vences et al. (2004) reported *Lygodactylus verticillatus* exhibited year-round reproductive activity in Madagascar, with a decrease during the dry, cool season of April to October. Vitt (1986) reported *Lygodactylus klugei* exhibited continuous reproduction in northeastern Brazil. Extended reproductive cycles appear to be common for lizards of the genus *Lygodactylus* (Loveridge, 1947) and for other gekkonid species (Vitt, 1986).

With around 60 species in the genus *Lygodactylus* (Branch, 1998) subsequent studies on their reproductive biology will be needed before the diversity in the timing of their reproductive cycles can be ascertained.

Acknowledgments

I thank Christine Thacker (LACM) for permission to examine lizards. Sean Kark (Whittier College) prepared the histology slides.

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What You Missed at the November CHS Meeting

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Normally the November meeting is a series of short talks or programs interrupted by the process of electing next year's board. Any speakers are warned that they may be stopped on occasion to further the electoral process. I felt that this meeting would be harder than average to put into words ("And then Mike Dloogatch called for a second . . . anyone, anyone?") It's not that I find the selection of officers boring, it's just that it seems really difficult to put it into *words* that are not boring. As happens frequently to someone who is perpetually trying to catch up to life, I was surprised—surprised that we had not one, but two excellent presentations.

Dr. Barten reviewed a trip to southern Illinois taken last September by several CHS members. Steve is a long-time member of the CHS, past president, and a long-time practicing veterinarian who specializes in treating herps as well as the furry members of the animal kingdom at his Vernon Hills Animal Hospital, northwest of Chicago. Accompanied by his usual excellent photographs, he took us on a typical "southern Illinois field trip", showing some of the variety of animals that are found 300 miles south of Chicagoland.

His pictures gave us intimate views of a yellow-bellied watersnake (*Nerodia erythrogaster flavigaster*), many water moccasins (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*), rough greensnakes (*Opheodrys aestivus*), an eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), a copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) and a gorgeous kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula*) that he almost brushed past rushing to project a few terrific pictures of a mole found under a piece of plywood. Not a mole salamander (*Ambystoma talpoideum*), but a real live mammal mole, or is it mole mammal (*Scalopus aquaticus*), displayed in all its weird splendor on the screen. Most of us appreciate the serendipitous nature of fieldwork enough to admire a rare find even if it does have fur. Lots of oohs and aahs.

Steve talked about the Larue-Pine Hills Road, a unique road in the Shawnee National Forest that is famous among the herping community in the Midwest. Twice a year this road is closed to vehicular traffic to allow safe passage for the many reptiles and amphibians that cross it going to and from the limestone bluffs on one side and the marshes and woodlands on the other. Absolutely no collecting is allowed, and even snake sticks and bags are forbidden, but cameras are welcome, so few herpers will visit southern Illinois without taking this hike.

Copperheads like this one are not nearly so common as cottonmouths on Pine Hills Road, but they do hibernate in the nearby bluffs. Photograph by Steve Barten.

A rare mole sighting was not enough of a climax to this presentation. Steve may now hold the record for the most remarkable find on that road and we were fortunate that such an accomplished photographer was willing and able to share the experience. While separated from the others in the group, Steve was standing still when he heard a very faint squeak in the woods by the road. Quietly he determined the general location of the sound, spotted the tiny movement of a leaf, and carefully reached down to uncover a red milksnake constricting a vole (*Microtus* sp.) He was able to attract the attention of the others, and for the next forty minutes they all watched as the snake killed and ate prey that most would assume was way too large for a milksnake. We watched as Steve's pictures allowed us to follow the action right up to the last photo of a grossly distended but presumably very happy milksnake crawling into the leaf litter. Animal Planet doesn't have it, folks! You only get this stuff at CHS meetings.

Rough greensnakes spend most of their time in trees or shrubs where they blend in remarkably, but their bright green coloration works against them when the background is limestone. Photograph by Steve Barten.

A no doubt very upset eastern mole struggles to free itself from Erik Williams's glove while a mosquito tries to take advantage of the situation. Photograph by Steve Barten.

Red milksnake in the process of engulfing an adult vole. It doesn't look possible, does it? Photograph by Steve Barten.

I was enjoying the meeting and wondering how it could be this good when I learned that we had a second speaker, Dr. Michael Corn. Another long-time member of the CHS, and another past president, Dr. Corn has taught biology and zoology at the College of Lake County (CLC) since 1970. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Eastern Illinois University and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida where he studied under Dr. Archie Carr. He has taught field courses in Costa Rica, Suriname, and the southwestern and southeastern U.S., including the Everglades. Now officially retired, he still teaches and leads field trips. You may want to look at his spring field trip to Costa Rica at http://www.clcillinois.edu/credit/academics/fieldstudytrips.asp. He invited anyone interested, and you can earn college credit!

Dr. Corn talked about a summer house, probably built sometime around World War II, in Lake County, northwest of Chicago. The house was tiny, with a concrete block foundation surrounding a basement and supporting the wood-framed house. Some years later an addition was built, and still the house was small. When it first came to the attention of Mike in 1997, the house, not too well constructed in the first place, was showing its age, with settling concrete porches and many holes through the walls and foundation, the yard not in the best of shape and the probably once wild setting now replaced by farm fields and heavily traveled highways, slowly being filled in by strip malls and housing developments. The house sat on property that backed against a marsh winding its way for miles and defying the civilization threatening to overrun the county. That was a good thing. The other good thing was the new owners of the house in 1997. They had the sense to contact Dr. Corn, and then to rent the house to Sandie Cosner, who worked with Dr. Corn at CLC. Sandie had assisted with other snake research projects, and was not afraid to share her house with snakes. Thus did Dr. Corn become involved with the foxsnake house.

Probably for decades, western foxsnakes (*Elaphe vulpina*) have moved between the marsh and the basement of this little house, and for about two months in the fall and one month in the spring, the basement comes alive with snakes, nearly all of them foxsnakes. It was Mike's good luck that the owners contacted him about seeing snakes, and then for the next seven years, Sandie allowed him and his students access to her house and to the snakes. Until 2004, Mike had the unique opportunity to study wild snakes in an accessible hibernaculum, getting some exciting data that would otherwise be unobtainable. He was able to PIT tag many snakes, radio tag a few, and use marking patterns to individually identify almost all of the snakes they caught. The next time you look at a foxsnake, check out the "Mickey Mouse" spots on the back, each a different shape and in different locations than on other foxsnakes. PIT tags could be read through the concrete block, making it possible to tell which snakes moved a lot during hibernation, and which snakes stayed in one place. Population models suggested that the house must be the wintering place for nearly all the foxsnakes in the marsh. One year with 129 captures, Mike estimated an adult foxsnake population of nearly 160 animals! Dr. Corn and his helpers studied growth rates, sexual differences, juvenile survival rates, and weight to length ratios. Then the studies stopped.

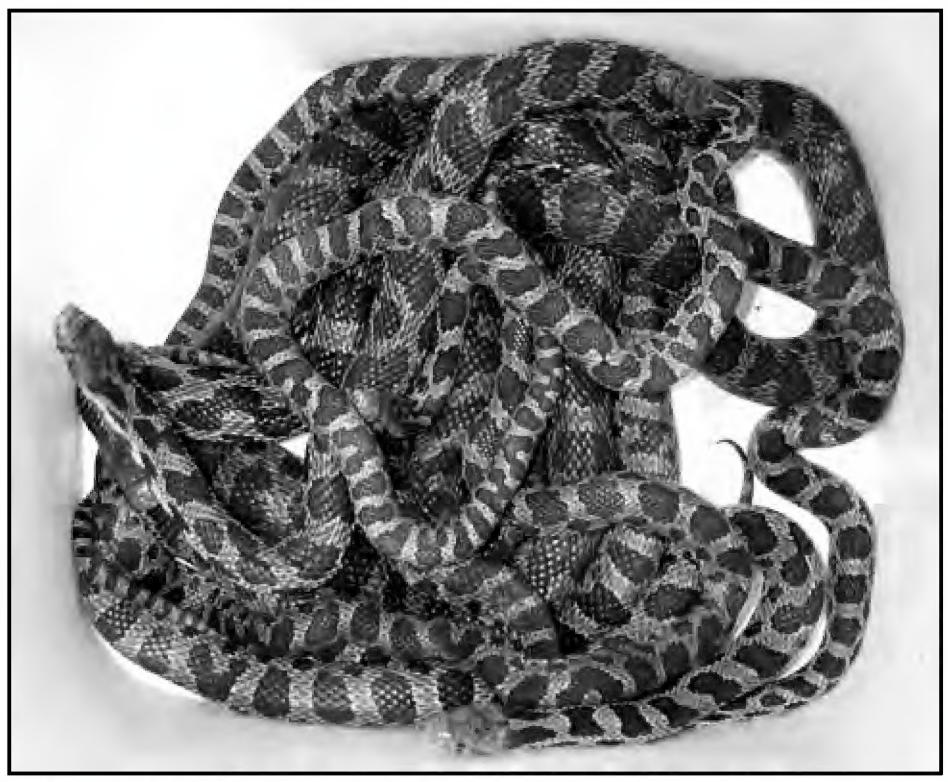
In 2004, Sandie moved out, and the little house was rented to a less cooperative tenant. Dr. Corn no longer had the access he needed to conduct his studies. Neighboring lots were being sold to developers, and the price of the land was increasing. Most of the land around the little house is posted and not accessible. The situation looks bleak. The house and property will almost certainly be sold for development, and the little house will no doubt be bulldozed. No one knows what will happen to the snakes in that case.

There is hope. Most of the wetlands are owned by the Lake County Forest Preserves, and while they are reluctant to buy land that is not quite contiguous with existing holdings, Mike stills holds hope that they can be talked into buying the little house. In 2007 Mike was allowed limited access, allowing him to confirm that the snakes are still using the house. He was also joined in the project by one of his former students, Rob Carmichael, now director of the Wildlife Discovery Center in Lake Forest. Tracking a few foxsnakes with Rob's radios—implanted by Steve Barten—revealed that in the summer the snakes used the wettest parts of the marsh, not simply the edges as was previously believed. If all else fails, Dr. Corn is exploring the possibility of constructing an artificial hibernaculum on forest preserve property. There are many questions about foxsnakes that still need answers, but time is running out. Perhaps those of you in Lake County can contact the county board and the forest preserve district. Let them know that some of their constituents care about what happens to a large population of foxsnakes and a little house.

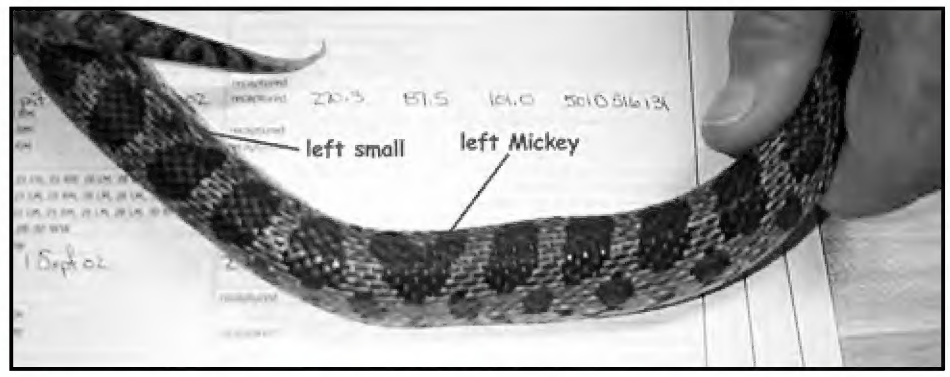
Oh yeah, what happened at the elections? A skilled and capable board was elected for the year 2008. The results are elsewhere in this bulletin. They will no doubt do a fine job in spite of the president. I was elected president. Thank you for your confidence in my abilities. Since this society has been around for forty years or so, it will certainly survive my tenure. I'll try, but I doubt if I will equal any of my predecessors. I thank those before me who have made this society the finest in the country. It's an honor to be thought worthy of continuing that tradition.

The foxsnake house doesn't look like much, but it's "home, sweet winter home" for more than 200 western foxsnakes.

Dr. Corn processes a captured foxsnake. Each is weighed, measured, identified as to gender, marked with a PIT tag, and then released back into the basement.



This bucket of foxsnakes is one good afternoon's catch.



Blotches shaped like Mickey Mouse and other pattern variations serve to uniquely identify each specimen.

Radiograph of a foxsnake with an implanted radio (upper right). Note the antenna extending beneath the skin almost one-quarter of the snake's length and the PIT tag, also under the skin, just in front of the tail.

Turning loose newly marked foxsnakes in the basement is almost as much fun as catching them!

Book Review: *Herpetological History of the Zoo and Aquarium World* by James B. Murphy 2007. 344 pp. Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, FL. ISBN: 1-57524-285-0 Hardcover $79.50

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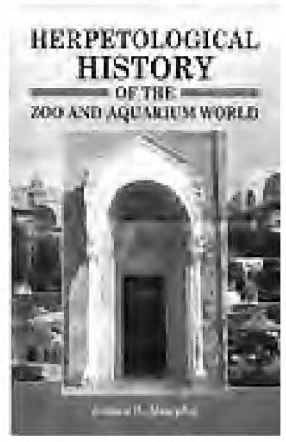

In this volume, James Murphy reviews the development of herpetological accomplishments of the world's zoos and aquariums from its origin to the present. The book begins with a foreword by the late Roger Conant, the last Victorian gentleman in American herpetology and zoos, and a prologue by Kraig Adler. It is massive; the narrative, which is the heart of this book, consists of more than 250 pages, double columned. Yet it is richly illustrated, thought-provoking and offers a pleasurable reading experience. Geographically, the main focus is on European and American institutions, but it also covers achievements made by zoo herpetologists in the Australian and often-forgotten Asian regions. Among the subjects are the chronology of herpetological discoveries, technical advancements in captive care, vignettes of historical moments and giants in zoo herpetology. In the captive management segment alone, the wide-ranging topics include medical care, behavior and longevity; it is informative for herpetologists and at the same time, bound to perk curiosity and interest of non-herpetologists.

Murphy poses serious questions concerning the role of zoos in wildlife conservation: " . . . how could the world's zoos become significant players in a world of shrinking biodiversity? . . . Could the competence of animals bred in captivity be assessed to ensure that they bore similarity to their wild counterparts?" (p. 35) Moreover he asks, "What is the future of zoo herpetology?" (p. 40) He then turns a critical eye on one of the icons of mainstream zoo culture: high-tech solutions to conserve endangered species, represented by dramatic interventions such as artificial insemination, the so-called "frozen zoo" and embryo transfer into surrogate mothers (p. 42). Too often, self-examination is curiously absent in today's zoos, where the majority eagerly subscribes to the sunny blue-sky, self-congratulatory mode. As a herpetologist Murphy offers a refreshing viewpoint in the domain dominated by self-defined conservationists, whose main concern is for crowd-pleasing mammalian species.

Aside from the wealth of facts, figures and historical perspective, the reader may be amused by the personal touch by Murphy, who was Curator of Reptiles at the Dallas Zoo in Texas for decades, and is currently associated with the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C. As the book unfolds it reveals his views and opinions based on first-hand experience and encounters with colleagues, many of whom have already passed on. Particularly engaging are the portraits of pioneers in the field such as S. S. Flower, H. Hediger, G. Durrell and R. Conant. You will find out that Carl Kauffeld, a renowned rattlesnake expert, rudely brushed off Murphy, a young curator he had never met. Or you may be moved by Murphy's poignant recollections of Jozsef Laszlo: "He was my first herpetological friend to die and I still miss him."

On a lighter note, Murphy dives into a controversial and, in this case, unexpected topic of reptilian behavior. Across from his house lies the National Zoo, where a Komodo dragon was observed "playing tug of war with a soda can, interacting with empty cardboard boxes, . . . stood on her hind legs, directed tongue flicks to a keeper's face, rested her head on a keeper's shoulder, and closed her eyes." (p.60) After having worked for half a century with live reptiles Murphy has "never seen such complex behavior from a so-called 'lower animal'; those days at the Zoo were some of the most exciting in my career!"

This volume contains a wealth of valuable and historic photos. Those images alone form a treasure trove and make the reading all the more exciting. We only wish the photos were larger, although there must have been a reason, economical perhaps, to keep them small. Another fine feature is the extensive reference list; even those who have been in the field for decades may be thrilled to find literature that they are unaware even existed.

"No one is better qualified to write the history of herpetology at zoos and aquariums than James B. Murphy," states Kraig Adler (Prologue, xiii). This one-of-a-kind book will undoubtedly remain a landmark reference for those who are interested not only in herpetology, but also in zoo and aquarium history of the world. It is obvious that no one will duplicate a book even closer to Murphy's for many years to come. Even though the price may be high for some, this volume is an absolute must for every zoo library and curator.

About the Reviewers: Ken Kawata worked in several zoos across the U.S. beginning in 1969, and most recently was General Curator of the Staten Island Zoo, New York (1999–2005). He is the author of articles on mammals in captivity and zoo history in various journals, and books including New York's Biggest Little Zoo *(see book review in CHS Bulletin Vol. 38, No. 11, November 2003). Paul Breese is Director Emeritus of the Honolulu Zoo, where he was Director from 1947 to 1965. He served as Chief of Wildlife Branch for the state of Hawaii in the 1970s. He founded the Brown Tree Snake Control Group in 1990 to help keep this introduced reptile that has caused so much environmental and economic damage on Guam from entering Hawaii.*

Unofficial Minutes of the CHS Board Meeting, November 16, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 P.M. at the home of Deb and Chris Krohn. Board member Erik Williams was absent.

Officers' reports

Recording Secretary: Minutes of the October 19 board meeting were read, minor corrections were made and they were accepted.

Treasurer: Income and expenses were discussed and the treasurer's report was accepted. We are doing very well compared to last year, largely due to the great success of ReptileFest '07.

Membership Secretary: Mike Dloogatch read the names of those whose memberships had expired in September, among whom were some prominent local members. Mike asked those present who might know some of these delinquents to remind them to renew.

Corresponding Secretary: There will be a performance of the children's play "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile" in Rogers Park on December 16 (at the Lifeline Theater) and they are planning on cross-advertising with the CHS.

Sergeant-at-arms: There were only 34 people at the October monthly meeting, but the talk was fabulous. Steve Sullivan thinks the meeting was very well run. The sergeant-at-arms also really wants more people on the CHS forum.

Committee Reports

Shows:

- There will be a first time pet owners show through the Will County Forest Preserve on December 1 in Joliet; Deb Krohn will be representing the CHS.
- The December Peggy Notebaert shows will be on the 1st, 2nd and 27th. Contact Jenny Vollman about attending.
- The Great Lakes Pet Expo will be on February 2, 2008. Contact Cindy Rampacek for further information.
- Project Exploration will hold its annual "Dino Dinner" on Friday, February 22, 2008.

ReptileFest: Even more advertising cards have been printed. They're a quick and efficient way to start spreading the good word.

Raffle: Josh Chernoff requested more donations. He asked members to get creative with ideas of where to get some.

Library: Steve Sullivan still needs to bug the overdue people. Deb Krohn kindly donated some educational CDs from the Illinois DNR.

Chicago Wilderness: They are promoting "A Vision of Active Transportation" and the Nature Conservancy's http://startoneconversation.org/ to get people talking about relevant issues in conservation. Making more connections between the CHS and the city of Chicago was discussed.

Old Business

- The magnets arrived and look great. The possibility of getting the magnet company to use our photos and then perhaps cross-advertise was discussed. A round CHS logo magnet also sounded appealing.
- SSAR will run an ad in *Herpetological Review* for the CHS Spot cartoon books. Everyone is encouraged to keep them in mind during the holiday season!

New Business

- Midwest Herpetological Symposium will be held in Detroit next year, November 7–9. They are ready for anyone who would like to pre-register and receive a discount.
- The CHS will be hosting the symposium in 2009. There was a lot of discussion about whether we should hold it the same weekend as NARBC and there was a generally positive attitude about it. Rich Crowley offered to do some initial planning and to speak with the people who run NARBC.
- It was suggested that the next CHS zoo trip be to Toledo, Ohio. It's a good zoo and we have contacts there. Jason Hood is working on both that and a trip to visit Chicago local Jim Nesci's fabulous reptile display.
- Deb Krohn will be doing Salamander Safari again in 2008.

Ideas and Suggestions

We should get ReptileFest video promos on YouTube.

Round Table

- Daniel Beck in collaboration with Steve Sullivan's father has prompted a strong interest in Gila monster protection in Utah.
- Mike Dloogatch regretfully informed us that the last good garter snake habitat near his Chicago home got bulldozed to make room for a bicycle path.
- Bob Bavirsha thanked everyone who helped out at the Milwaukee Public Museum Snake Day show.
- Everyone should be reminded that it's now wintertime so there is parking across the street from the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum for the general meetings.
- Rich Crowley spoke about the tragic irony of a ball python that got wrapped around the serpentine belt in a car. On a lighter note, he watched a red-tail hawk eat a squirrel while taking up a desirable parking space; it wasn't bothered by the cars wanting it to move.
- Deb Krohn was impressed that a copperbelly water snake was found by Jim Christianson in Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve in Muscatine, Iowa. The CHS took a trip there about 2 years ago.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Kira Geselowitz. She has enjoyed being on the board and regrets that she cannot attend the December board and general meetings. Happy Holidays to all!

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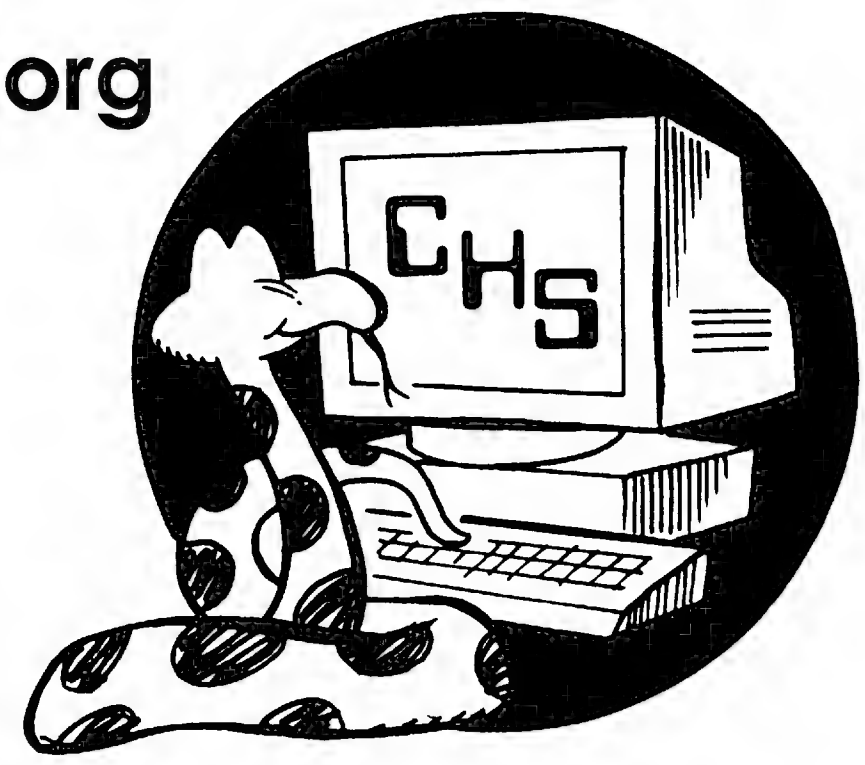

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For sale: books. McPhee, David R.—*Some Common Snakes & Lizards of Australia*, 1963 (1959); 125 pp., many b&w photos, small pocketbook-size; spine slightly scuffed, softbound, $25; Morris, Ian—*Kakadu National Park—Australia*, 1996, 224 pp., profusely illustrated with excellent color photos, divided into the effects of the 6 seasons recognized by the aboriginal people on the various Kakadu habitats, an outstanding guide to the natural history of this World Heritage-listed national park, photos and life history details of many herps including the Oenpelli python and giant cave gecko, softbound, $36; Holthouse, Hector—*The Australian Geographic Book of Cape York*, 1991, 168 pp., many excellent color and b&w photos (some full page), 4 pp. on Dr. Donald Thomson, the first scientist to collect a live taipan, color herp photos include green tree python, Boyd's forest dragon, frill-necked lizard and freshwater crocodile, natural and cultural history of this zoologically rich area, map not included, softbound, $32; Kauffeld, Carl—*Snakes: The Keeper and the Kept*, 1969, 248 pp., 39 b&w photos, husbandry information and the author's adventures looking for snakes (particularly rattlesnakes) in Arizona, Texas, New York and South Carolina, previous owner's name inked out inside front cover, DJ slightly frayed on top of spine, mylar covering on DJ, hardbound, $52; Guyer, Craig, and Maureen Donnelly—*Amphibians and Reptiles of La Selva, Costa Rica, and the Caribbean Slope*, 2005, 299 pp., 207 plates (color photos), 20 figs. (drawings), range maps of distribution in Costa Rica, extensive bibliography, a comprehensive guide to the herpetofauna of this research station and surrounding area, as-new condition, well done publication, softbound, $16. All books are in excellent condition except as noted. Subject to prior sale. $2.50 postage and handling for orders under $25, free for orders of $25 or more. William R. Turner, 7395 S. Downing Circle W., Centennial, CO 80122; telephone (303) 795-5128; e-mail: toursbyturner@aol.com.

For sale: Well started normal and spider morph ball pythons (*Python regius*) available for free delivery in the Chicagoland area—2007 normals $20 and spider males $350. I will consider trades for a mojave morph ball python. Also available are high-contrast, Sarawak Locality and Walnut × Sarawak pairing Borneo pythons (*Python breitensteini*). Pricing is based on male sex with $50 more for females, if available: 2007 high-contrast, $150; 2007 Sarawak, $175; 2006 Sarawak, $200; 2007 Walnut × Sarawak (melanistic Borneos), $125. All feeding on frozen thawed adult mice and/or rats. Shipping available as an additional cost, if needed. Contact Rich Crowley at 708-646-4058 only (at this time since I am in transition with internet service providers.)

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Internship available: The Kentucky Reptile Zoo, a nonprofit organization, is seeking student interns for the 2008 season. The zoo is an educational exhibit, venom production and research facility located near Kentucky's Red River Gorge and Natural Bridge State Park. The intern will assist in the captive maintenance of the zoo's reptile collection, collect admissions to the exhibit, give interpretive talks and interact with the public, assist with educational outreach programs, and perform other duties as assigned. In addition, the intern will be responsible for the completion of at least one research project related to the field of herpetology. The intern will **not** be involved in the handling of any venomous species. Desirable qualifications include a willingness to handle snakes and other reptiles on a daily basis, ability to communicate effectively with people, writing skills, orientation to details, and self-motivation. The intern will be required to work Saturday and Sunday, with days off during the week. Students majoring in the biological or natural sciences are preferred. Interns are required to be either college students or recent graduates. Former interns have arranged for academic credit with their institutions. Benefits include experience with one of the most extensive and diverse collection of snakes in the United States, housing, and $55/week to cover expenses. Interns have been successful in finding zookeeper positions: over 95% hire rate! Personal transportation is recommended. A valid driver's license is required. Starting dates are flexible, but a minimum of three months covering spring (April-June) summer (June-August) or fall (September-November) is required. Deadlines are February 1 for spring, April 1 for summer and July 1 for fall. To apply, send a cover letter, resume, transcript, and at least 2 (preferably 3) references to: Kristen Wiley, Internship Coordinator, Kentucky Reptile Zoo, 200 L&E Railroad, Slade, KY 40376 or email to: reptilezoo@bellsouth.net.

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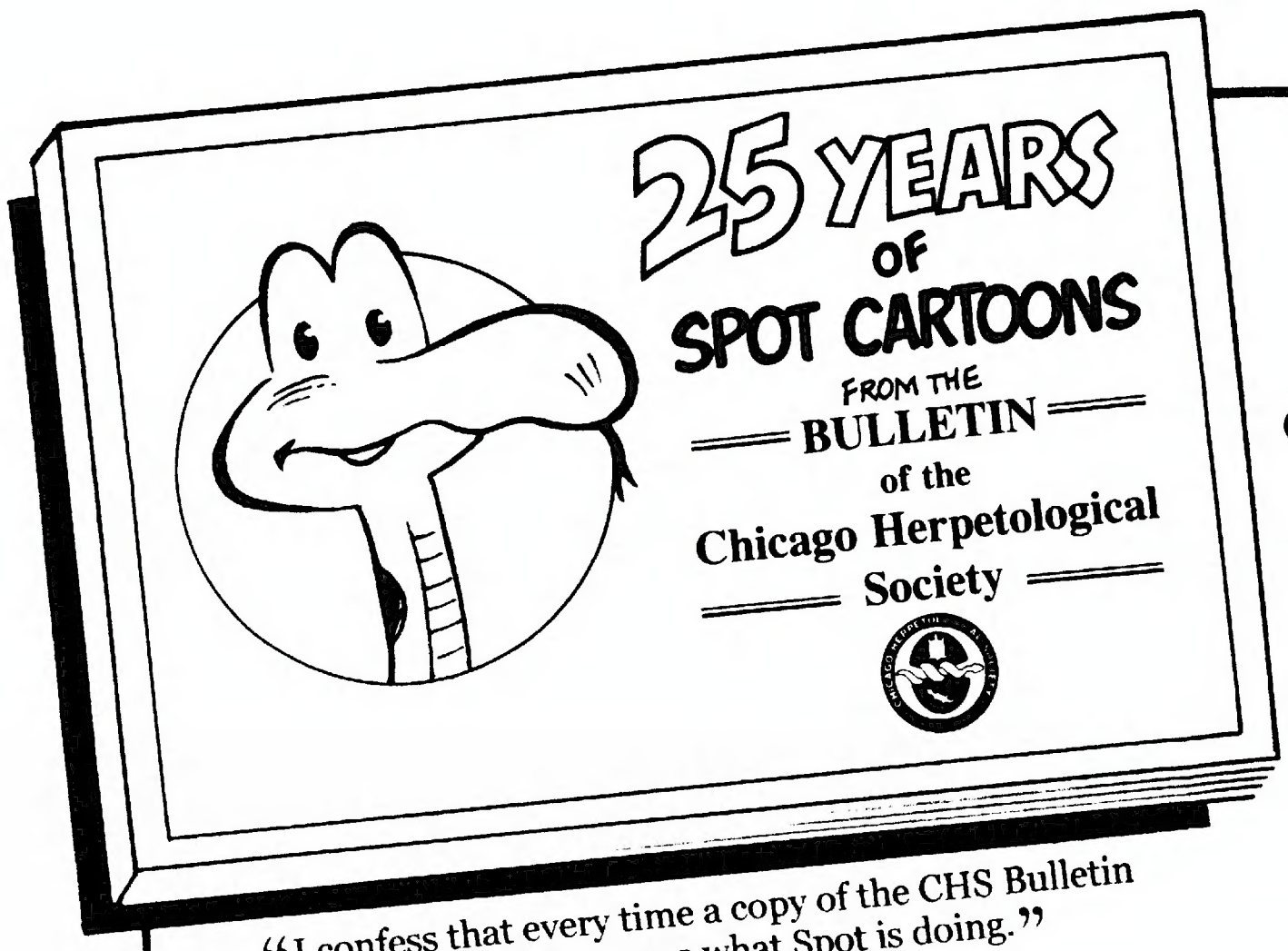

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, December 26, at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Cannon Drive and Fullerton Parkway, in Chicago. **This meeting will be a holiday party.** The CHS will provide soft drinks and snacks. If you would like to bring something edible to share with the group, you are invited to do so. If you would like to bring an animal to show off to the group, you are encouraged to do that as well. This will be a chance to socialize all evening and get to know your fellow members a little better.

Speaking at the January 30 meeting will be **Dr. Zoltan Takacs**, research associate at the University of Chicago's Institute for Molecular Pediatric Sciences. Dr. Takacs is an expert on venomous snakes and their venoms.

The regular monthly meetings of the Chicago Herpetological Society take place at Chicago's newest museum — the **Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**. This beautiful new building is at Fullerton Parkway and Cannon Drive, directly across Fullerton from the Lincoln Park Zoo. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month, from 7:30 P.M. through 9:30 P.M. Parking is free on Cannon Drive. A plethora of CTA buses stop nearby.

Board of Directors Meeting

Are you interested in how the decisions are made that determine how the Chicago Herpetological Society runs? And would you like to have input into those decisions? If so, mark your calendar for the next board meeting, to be held January 18 in the adult meeting room on the second floor of the Schaumburg Township District Library, 130 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg.

The Chicago Turtle Club

The monthly meetings of the Chicago Turtle Club are informal; questions, children and animals are welcome. Meetings normally take place at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, in Chicago. Parking is free. For more info visit the CTC website: http://www.geocities.com/~chicagoturtle.

ELECTION RESULTS

As a result of the elections held November 28, 2007, the following officers and members-at-large will serve on the CHS Board of Directors for the year 2008.

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Vice-president:	Jason Hood	Sergeant-at-arms:	Dan Bavirsha
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